

# Ezra 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.

## Analysis

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Ezra quotes divine prohibition: 'Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations.' This cites prophetic warnings (not direct Moses quotations but summarizing themes from Leviticus 18, Deuteronomy 7). The land's 'uncleanness' came from inhabitants' practices. The phrase 'which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness' pictures complete pollution. God warned against assimilating such practices.

## Historical Context

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The prophetic warnings summarized here draw from passages like Leviticus 18:24-28 (land vomiting out inhabitants due to sexual immorality), Deuteronomy 7:1-4 (prohibition on intermarriage with Canaanites), and various prophets who warned against adopting pagan practices. The 'filthiness' and 'abominations' refer specifically to idolatry and associated practices—temple prostitution, child sacrifice, divination. These weren't merely cultural differences but moral evils God explicitly forbade. The land itself was depicted as contaminated by such practices, requiring cleansing.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does depicting the land as 'unclean' emphasize the serious moral pollution of idolatrous practices?
2. What does God's clear prohibition through prophets demonstrate about having adequate warning before judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	צִוִּיתָ	בְּיָד	עֲבָדֶיךָ	הַנְּבִיאִים	לֵאמֹר
H834	Which thou hast commanded	by	thy servants	the prophets	saying
	H6680	H3027	H5650	H5030	H559
הָאֶרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר	אֵת	בָּאִים	לְרִשְׁתָּהּ	הָאֶרֶץ
The land	H834	H859	unto which ye go	to possess	The land
H776			H935	H3423	H776
בְּנֵי	הָיָא	בְּנֵי	עַמִּי	הָאֶרֶץ	
it is an unclean	H1931	it is an unclean	of the people	The land	
H5079		H5079	H5971	H776	
בְּתוֹעֲבֹתֶיהָ	אֲשֶׁר	מָלְאוּהָ	מִפֶּה	אֶל	
with their abominations	H834	which have filled	it from one end	H413	
H8441		H4390	H6310		
מִפֶּה	בְּתוֹעֲבֹתֶיהָ				
it from one end	with their uncleanness				
H6310	H2932				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezra 6:21** (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat,

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